

## **Ludlowe Center for Health & Rehabilitation**

**March 1, 2023**

### **Written testimony of Patricia Page, Administrator, Ludlowe Center for Health & Rehabilitation concerning Skilled Nursing Facility Funding For SFY 2024 and SFY 2025.**

Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Patricia Page. I am the administrator for Ludlowe Center for Health & Rehabilitation in Fairfield., Connecticut. Ludlowe has been providing nursing home care in our community for 12+ years. We are a 144 bed nursing home, and we have 200 employees working at our facility, and we are members of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF).

#### **A Period of Trauma *and* Resilience for our Nursing Home Residents and Caregivers**

Now three years into this unrelenting COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and I can say that our nursing home, the residents we serve, and our employees, continue to be challenged like in no other time in our history of providing services in Connecticut. I can *also* say that our nursing home is as determined as ever, and we feel that each week we are getting closer to a time when we can say the pandemic is behind us.

#### **Ravaging Inflation, Severe Staffing Shortages is Hindering Admissions, Increasing Labor Costs and Slowing the Nursing Home Recovery**

Never experienced inflation and the ongoing staffing crisis are the top issues that are not addressed in the budget recommendation.

Inflation. We are losing ground [or unable to keep up with inflation or your words]. Here are the examples of what is happening: increased utilities, home heating oil, food, daycare costs, etc.. The proposed funding for nursing homes doesn't recognize what is happening on inflation, and we are asking you to recognize the real inflation that we are experiencing in the budget.

Staffing Crisis. The severe staffing shortages our nursing home have faced during the pandemic is not letting up. Here is what is happening. We are forced to utilize agency whose staff does not know our residents. We are paying overtime, shift differentials, bonuses, etc.

The resources the state legislature previously provided us to boost staff pay has made all the difference over the last two years, but our employees are losing ground against inflation, just as we are. More funding is needed in the budget to address the unbelievable inflation we are facing and to help us with our soaring labor costs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Page, Administrator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Page', with a stylized flourish at the end.